PR Award #: S336S220062

Reach Institute

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Absolute Priority: Absolute Priority 1.

Competitive Preference Priorities: CPP 2 - 4.

Project Title: Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway for Local Talent (TAP Local Talent) Reach University

Project Description: TAP Local Talent goals include (1): Launch a teacher preparation program that meets the needs of our local district partners by preparing, graduating, and placing 288 high-quality, fully-certified teachers in high-need schools served by the Coop by the end of the grant period, and 650 fully-certified teachers by the end of project year 6; recruit a diverse candidate pool so that greater than 50% of program completers identify as BIPOC; develop a pipeline of fully certified teachers who are qualified to teach in high-need subject areas, such as math, English language arts, and science, in schools serving high percentages of socioeconomically disadvantaged students and those living in rural communities. (2): Prepare, support, and retain new teachers, including new teachers who identify as BIPOC, in schools identified as high-need by providing mentorship support to ensure that 80% of teacher candidates entering the program will complete the program and become a teacher of record beginning in year 3 of their program (Year 4 of the grant period); ensure that teacher candidates are reflective of the local community and 90% of program completers are hired by their "home" district; provide a continuum of professional development opportunities so that 90% of teachers hired by their "home" districts are retained in their teaching positions for a minimum of five years. (3): Scale, replicate, and sustain the teacher preparation program so that it serves additional teacher candidates in additional high-need LEAs in eastern Arkansas by establishing partnership agreements with two additional education service cooperatives representing high-need LEAs in south and southeastern regions of Arkansas in Year 3 of the grant period; leverage state and local funding programs for workforce development and student aid to ensure program costs are fully subsidized for teacher candidates and the project is sustained beyond TQP grant funding. (4): Prepare candidates who are ready to lead instruction and engage students in learning that prepares them for high levels of achievement in college, career, and life by serving more than 13,000 students across 34 schools in 10 districts in the Great Rivers service area over the course of the grant period; increase student achievement outcomes (academics, social-emotional) from baseline levels established in the new teachers' first year of service.

Project Expected Outcomes: To achieve the goals, the project leverages school-based personnel (e.g., paraprofessionals, instructional aides, etc.) to enter the teacher preparation program, earning their Bachelor's degree and teacher certification in just three years. This approach removes a significant barrier—the requirement that candidates already have BA's when they enter preparation programs—for high-potential individuals who already live and work in the communities in which they will teach. During the project period, TAP Local Talent will serve at least 25 candidates in year 1, 100 candidates in year 2, 300 candidates in year 3, and 500 candidates in year 4, and another 500 in year 5, with the goal of placing at least 90% of program completers in their home districts as teachers of record.

Project Partners: Reach University, in partnership with Oxford Teachers College, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Great Rivers Service Cooperative's LEAs and schools, and TNTP, present the Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway for Local Talent project, or TAP Local Talent.